Entertainment expenses for Ministers paid by Air India

2717. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is making payments of hotel accommodation and entertainment expenses of the Ministers in his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details of such payments indicating names of hotels, period of stay and amount paid?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Economy drive by Indian Airttnes

2718. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airlines authorities have imposed an economy drive in certain areas to curb unwanted expenditure in Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian airlines continues to indulge in drainage of a huge amount of money every year for bringing Boeing Commanders to operate flights from Calcutta to eastern and north eastern regions; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIA TION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The following measures have been taken by Indian Airlines to reduce expenditure:

— Economising on aircraft fuel consumption by shorting of routes optimisation of speed/cruise levels, etc.

— Reduction of establishment expenses;

— Avoidance/deferment, as far as possible, of non-operational expenditure on civil works, furniture, fixtures, office equipment, vehicles, etc.

— Frequent pre-flight checks to avoid wastage on food uplift/catering items;

— Readjustment of schedules matching with demand;

— Postponement of conferences and seminars.

(c) and (d) Certain B 737 Commanders from Delhi and Bombay are required to have a night-stop at Calcutta due to operational reasons. From Calcutta they operate flights to Eastern and North-Eastern Regions prior to return to their base. The expenditure involved is estimated at about Rs. 40 lakhs per year.

विभिन्न किस्म के विमान

2719. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत सरकार के पास किस-किस किस्म के कितने-कितने विमान हैं और उनकी यात्री-वहन क्षमता कितनी-कितनी है ; और

(ख) देश में कौन-कौन से वायुमार्ग अलाभकर हैं ?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया) : (क) एयर इंडिया,